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LOOK INSIDE



Creative Santa

Gull Lake cottager Catherine Nutt creates her own Christmas magic
See page 13



Christmas in concert

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students celebrate the season.

See page 12

In Quotes

"I feel like we're banging our heads against a concrete wall."

Eleanor Harrison, page 2



Time for Tim Hortons

Tim Hortons and Pioneer Gas Station both opened for business on Thursday afternoon. The owner of Minden's new coffee shop, Nancy Bishop, said she has hired 30 people, 28 of them full-time. Pioneer has four employees on its payroll. Pioneer's District Manager Ray Angrove said he received 70 applications for the eight to 10 positions he will eventually fill. Both companies will be open all hours of the day.

Dysart's Bill Davis dons warden's chain of office

by JERRY GROZELLE
Times staff

Dysart Deputy-Reeve Bill Davis will serve as warden of Haliburton County for the next year.

Past Warden Ross Rigney nominated Davis at last Tuesday night's inaugural meeting. He noted that Davis holds the distinction of being the longest serving deputy-reeve in Dysart history. With the exception of one term when he did not run because he had taken a job with the Ministry of Health, Davis has been the deputy-reeve of Dysart since 1985.

"He is only the second deputy-reeve to hold the position of Warden of Haliburton County," Rigney said.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey said "I've

had the pleasure of working with Bill for longer than most marriages last these days," Fearrey quipped. "There are four things a man goes through in his life. He starts off believing in Santa Claus. Then he disbelieves in Santa Claus. Then he is Santa Claus and then he looks like Santa Claus. Comparing all that to Bill, this is the period in his life where he is going to be Santa Claus."



Bill Davis

"I've come to respect that Bill's interest is in the interest of people in general and in the interest of this county."

Haliburton County CAO Gary King called

see DAVIS page 6

Lagoon frozen in its tracks

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times staff

The first phase of a septic storage lagoon at the Pine Springs landfill site has been frozen in its tracks.

Algonquin Highlands council received a letter earlier this month saying that before the lagoon project can go ahead a change to the landfill site's Certificate of Approval is required.

"We've been told the [C of A] application won't take any longer than three months which means it will be six," a frustrated Reeve Eleanor Harrison, said.

The delay means that septic waste haulers in the municipality face another winter of not having any place to store septage until it can be disposed of in the spring. Property owners therefore have to hire haulers from outside the county who have

see LANDFILL page 2

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from all of us

Landfill's C of A slows down lagoon

from page 1

their own lagoons.

"I feel like we're banging our heads on a concrete wall. We're two and a half years into the storage lagoon and now all of a sudden [the Ministry of Environment] turns around at last minute and says no we can't," Harrison said at Thursday's council meeting.

In the spring, Harrison, CAO Gerald Bain and consultant Thomas Grace met with MOE officials in Peterborough to go over the lagoon proposal. Officials said the lagoon was a compatible neighbour for the landfill, but failed to mention that the landfill's C of A would have to be changed first.

Grace went ahead and prepared the C of A documents for the lagoon only to be told on December 5 that the landfill's C of A changes would have to come first.

"The lagoon's not going to be operational this winter," Harrison says.

Matthew Walls/TIMES





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Santa trades a hug for a bag of food with Jean Ballantyne in front of Valu-Mart at the OPP's Annual Food Drive. Holding a bag of food is OPP Auxiliary Constable Kevin Windover, who helped the OPP collect food and cash donations at Valu-Mart and IGA. The event ran on Tuesday in Minden, and Wednesday in Haliburton.

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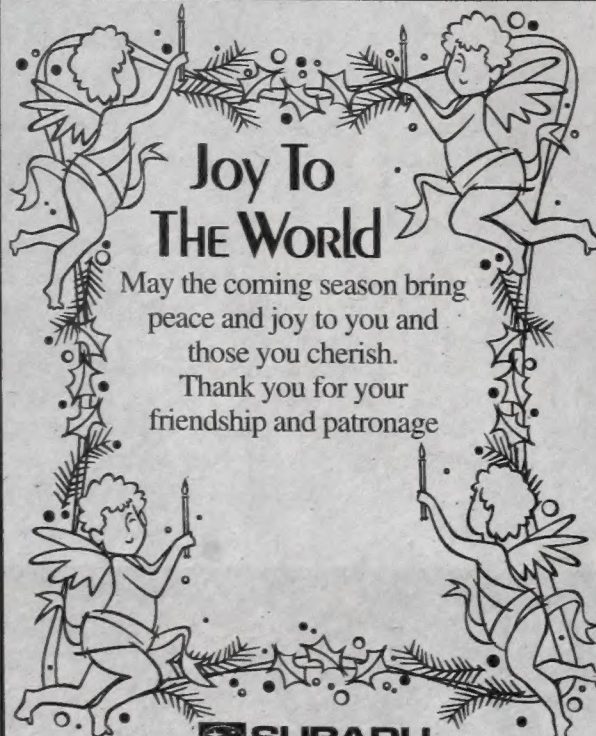
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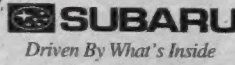
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Riding the wave of council raises

Algonquin Highlands joins Dysart, Highlands East and the county in voting for a pay increase

by MATTHEW WALLS
Times staff

The following are brief notes from Thursday's Algonquin Highlands council meeting.

Saying a higher salary will attract younger as well as more competent staff, council unanimously approved pay raises for the reeve, deputy reeve and councillors.

The reeve's salary jumps from \$15,915 to \$20,000, the deputy reeve's from \$12,735 to \$16,000, and a councillor's from \$10,610 to \$12,735. The figures were adopted from Highlands East, which recently approved a similar raise. Council also adopted Highlands East's figures at the time of amalgamation three years ago.

"We must continue to be competitive if we're going to encourage young people," said Reeve Eleanor Harrison.

Preparing for council now takes a day and a half, and the issues are more complex as well, Harrison added.

Deputy-reeve Tom Gardner agreed.

"Times are changing," he said, and while in the past people didn't do the job for the money, he sees nothing wrong with people taking the job for the money.

"You get good value out of it."

Councillor Jim Hicks echoed Harrison's words. "If we want to encourage young people, it has to be worth their while in some way."

Council will also continue to exempt one third of councillors' expenses from taxation.

Helicopter Training

Stanhope Airport proved to be such an ideal location for the Canadian Forces' night helicopter training that the squadron plans to return for more in early February (5 to 8).

This time, the 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron will bring 52 personnel, two CH 146 Griffin helicopters and 10 vehicles, and will camp in tents on the airfield's perimeter.

As with the previous flight training, the Canadian squadron will conduct night



Darren Lum/TIMES

Amid a flurry of snow a CH-146 Griffin helicopter taxis just above the tarmac at the Stanhope Airport. Canadian Airforce pilots from CFB Borden were flying training missions, improving night piloting skills using high tech night vision goggles. The Griffin is a multi-tasked fixed wing aircraft that fulfills a variety of tasks such as transport and rescue, and is used domestically and internationally. The training was so successful the army will be back in February and set up camp at the airport.

flights with Slovenian air force members.

John Packer, Stanhope Airport's manager, said the training will "not be an intrusion on the environment and surrounding locals."

Packer added that the majority of people thought the last training mission "was great."

A greater area will be used this time, and the squadron will pay the cost of plowing and garbage disposal.

Insurance Hike

Insurance fees for Algonquin Township will jump by over 20 per cent next year.

Paul Dorman, of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Canada Ltd., said the \$50 million coverage package for 2004 will cost \$67,478, an increase of \$12,777, or 23.6 per cent.

Jardine Lloyd Thompson has changed their carrier to Zurich Financial Services, which wanted less of a percentage fee than their previous carrier, Ontario Municipal Insurance Exchange (OMEX).

Algonquin Highlands' CAO, Gerald Bain, said the increase was "fair," given that insurance rates are rising everywhere.

Dorman also assured council that council could terminate its contract with OMEX without any repercussions.

OMEX had previously sent a threatening letter to council insisting council had signed a binding contract with OMEX.

Dorman, however, said Jardine Lloyd Thompson's lawyers had reviewed the contracts and felt they were not binding. In the new contract, Jardine Lloyd Thompson will assume any costs that may arise out of a lawsuit.

Council also asked Dorman to have Jardine Lloyd Thompson reappraise some of its properties, such as Dorset Tower, which is not even in the insurance plan. The figures in the plan were last reviewed four years ago.

Fire Report

Stanhope Fire Department John Hogg reported a freak car accident where a van slid off High. 118, rolled through a ditch and then landed upright in a cottage's driveway, looking from a distance as if it was just a parked vehicle, though slightly smushed up. The driver sustained no injuries.

AMO contract

Council renewed its membership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Harrison said, "It's a reasonably expensive membership, but they are really

our only lobby group, so it's money well spent."

The fee of \$2,300.29 is five per cent higher than 2003.

Dorset Museum gets furnace

Dorset Museum will get a high efficiency oil furnace, likely to be installed next April or May. Council approved the \$5,585.40 estimate provided by Bechtel's Home Heat.

Tourism/Marketing Plan

The county's only airport will be promoting itself and the county at the world's largest aviation event in Oshkosh, Wisconsin next year.

Council approved \$7,550 in expenses for John Packer, Stanhope Airport manager, and a staff member from the Chamber of Commerce to display a booth at the Air Venture Conference, along with a video from Stanhope Airport. Destination Guides will also be distributed.

Harrison said combining the resources of the Chamber and the airport should be tried.

"To me it sounds, if you can get all partners on board, like a great idea. We should try it at least once."

9-1-1 on track for summer 2004 implementation

by JERRY GROZELLE
Times staff

The implementation of the 9-1-1 system in Haliburton County is on track to be completed by the summer of next year.

Stephen Foster, project co-ordinator, told county council on Wednesday that he was pleased that the four municipalities have passed the required by-laws regarding road naming.

With the exception of a few, all the roads in Haliburton have official names.

Foster said that his crew started in June of 2001 – 30 months ago – and things have changed dramatically since then.

The next hurdle, as he sees it, is getting

a consensus among the four municipalities and the county regarding who will be responsible for the on-going maintenance of the system once 9-1-1 is implemented.

Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney suggested the CAOs of the four municipalities get together and come up with a proposal that will be consistent across the county.

"We need to do the same thing in all four municipalities," agreed Warden Bill Davis.

"I agree whole-heartedly," Foster said. "We must have a consensus if it's going to work."

The discussion turned to how the 9-1-1

signs would be administered. Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey suggested signs should be issued as part of entrance permits or building permits. "It's the most logical way to go," he said. "A condition of a building permit should be that 9-1-1 signs be purchased and installed."

It was agreed that the responsibility for installing the signs should be the delegated to the property owners.

"I have no problem assigning responsibility for sign installation to the landowner," said Gary King.

Foster said public input will be important to the accuracy of 9-1-1 signage. He said that at some point letters will be sent

to all property owners to make sure all properties with buildings have signs. The committee will rely on landowners to provide information about properties that have been missed.

Foster noted that preparing a budget for 2004 will be difficult because there are so many uncertainties. Those uncertainties are based on what projects must be completed by a given complement of staff members during a specified timeframe.

"The biggest difficulty in providing the estimate stems from the fact that everything we do is being done for the first time – not as part of an established cycle," Foster pointed out in his report.

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Lutterworth Pines seeks help for water woes

by MATTHEW WALLS
Times staff

The following are brief notes from Minden Hills Township's council meeting on Thursday, December 11th.

A deputation from Lutterworth, led by Ward 1 election candidate Pam Sayne, asked council for help to deal with the well system at Lutterworth Pines, which does not meet new Ontario water regulations.

The president of the association, Buck Foster, said he has moved out of the area and can no longer look after the well system. The Lutterworth Pines well system is used by 28 houses and three businesses.

As well, Foster said because of bureaucratic regulations at the Ministry of the Environment, no one is testing the well system at the moment.

Foster said the MOE will force council to take the water system over, if it doesn't do so on its own.

Council was extremely reluctant to do so, however. Councillor Ron Buchanan commented that taking over the system would require charging a user-fee to the township's residents: "I don't think the taxpayers will want to pay for water in Lutterworth."

Councillor Clayton Cameron, who dealt with the problem previously when he was Minden's Public Works Superintendent, said council should steer clear of the problem.

"We can't go near the thing otherwise it becomes our responsibility. We were [previously] waiting for the Ministry of the Environment [to force the issue]."

Cameron said upgrading Lutterworth Pines' well system would cost close to \$300,000.

"If the Ministry orders us to do it then so be it. Until they come down in a [decision] we would be ill-advised to get involved."

Council asked Bob Romberg, Environmental and Property Operations Manager, to provide a temporary solution and to report on other alternatives.

Back lot By-Law divides council

The rezoning of two severed lots, one of them a waterfront property, owned by a Minden Hills Township resident, divided council, with opponents arguing that the rezoning amendments would in effect create a back lot, contrary to council's own official plan.

A back lot is a residential property close to but not adjacent to a waterfront property lot.

James Howe previously severed his property into two lots, one fronting water and the other opposite it on the other side of the highway that now divides the lots.

The zoning amendment allows Howe to continue to use the storage facilities on the highway lot; the cottage on the other lot can still be used as a residence. This

despite the fact that the highway lot has less than the required highway frontage.

However, Cameron and Councillor Peter Oyler objected that the rezoning, though it prevents Howe from converting the storage facilities into a residence, does not stop Howe from building a new residence.

Cameron insisted that council should stick to the letter of the official plan.

"This is to create a back lot that is contrary to our own bylaw," Cameron said. "It's fine to say there's only a garage on it, but you know very well there will be a building on it."

Oyler asked council to consider approving the request only if the zoning amendment guaranteed that no residence would be built on the highway lot.

Council, however, in a recorded vote requested by Cameron, chose to pass the by-law. Oyler and Cameron opposed it.

Anyone wishing to appeal council's decision must do so by January 4th, 2004.

Humane beaver management

Trapping beavers is not the only way to solve the problems they cause, Mary Anne Barkhouse, a local artist, told council.

After reading of council's beaver-trapping policy in the *Minden Times*, Barkhouse said she wanted council to consider new, cost-effective 'non-lethal' beaver management technologies.

Barkhouse, who said her work often uses the beaver as a motif, presented Deputy Reeve Jim McMahon with a package of information and a video.

McMahon represents council on its public works committee.

Reeve Ross Rigney, who has five culverts on his property, said, "I would like to learn what the deputy reeve would have to recommend, so I could solve my problems."

Rigney seemed enthusiastic about Barkhouse's ideas. "In the long run, it would be cheaper for us [to adopt new technologies]."

Fire-Hall Addition

A new location will have to be found for the basketball court near the fire hall. The fire department is building an addition that would connect its two current buildings and add a bay.

Fire Chief Doug Schell suggested that council move the court across the parking lot and use the county building's concrete wall as one side of the court.

Some councillors expressed concern, and Cameron asked council write a letter to inform the Lions Club, who donated the basketball court, of council's plans.

Schell also reported that fire calls for 2003 had more than doubled from 26 last year to 41.

Lions Bingo

The Lions Club Bingo will have to stay smoke-free until the province decides on

its no-smoking laws.

The Lions Club submitted a petition to council asking it to exempt their bingo from the municipal by-law which doesn't allow smoking in municipal buildings. The club's bingo was in the community centre.

The club stopped offering bingo because it was losing money since the majority of the players were smokers who went elsewhere in the county.

Council, following the suggestion of Cameron, decided to wait for the province's decision, since "anything we do would be redundant."

Councillor Ron Buchanan, who presented the petition, supported the club but was outnumbered by opponents. Councillor Peter Oyler, while recognizing that smokers have rights, reiterated his belief that, "Smokers do not have the right to impose their smoke on non-smokers."

Changing the by-law, Oyler said, is the wrong solution.

"We would be regressive in revising the by-law. We should encourage the other municipalities [to follow suit]."

McMahon suggested charging the club less for rent, but the others did not take up the idea.

Insurance Coverage Jumps

Minden Hills Township's insurance plan with Jadine Lloyd Thompson Canada Ltd. will jump next year by over 20%.

Paul Dorman, representing Jadine Lloyd Thompson, asked council not to blame the messenger but the message. Claims, he said, have shot up industry-wide, and the insurance hike is the inevitable result.

Jardine Lloyd Thompson has switched carriers for the new plan, from the Ontario Municipal Insurance Exchange (OMEX) to Zurich Financial Services. This is a significant improvement, Dorman said, since larger claims can easily be covered by Zurich.

Dorman also informed council that the threatening letter it received from OMEX warning council not to break its contract with OMEX was incorrect.

"I can assure you," Dorman said, "You have not signed a contract."

Council's new contract with Jardine Lloyd Thompson includes any possible legal fees that may be needed if OMEX tries to sue council.

As well, Dorman confirmed for Cameron that the province's new stringent water regulations were covered under the new plan.

"It's over monitored in our opinion, so we have no problem issuing it."

Tax Exemption for council continues

Councillors will continue to have one third of their expenses exempted from taxation.

Cameron voiced some opposition to the motion, believing that do so would require councillors pay for their own mileage coming to meetings.

Oyler, however, said mileage is dealt with outside of the expense allowance.

The expense allowances for members of council will increase two per cent next year. The reeve will receive \$4,250, the deputy reeve \$3,900 and councillors \$3,600.

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Davis sees 'a year in progress'

from page 1

for further nominations and since there were none, Davis was acclaimed as warden.

MP John O'Reilly presented Davis with a portrait of the Queen and a Canadian flag. MPP Laurie Scott was unable to attend but sent a congratulatory message.

Prior to the nominations Reverend Christopher Greaves asked the blessing. "Good government is almost invisible," he said. "Just like good Christian witness is almost invisible. If the community is functioning well, if the community is healthy, it doesn't need a lot of government."

Greaves quipped that Haliburton "is the land that power outages forgot." He was referring to the power outage that left most of eastern Canada and the north-eastern United States in darkness. "But there is no shortage of power in this room because of the skill and experience that you bring," he said.

"Back in 1985, when I first got involved in municipal politics, I had no idea that I would still be here in 2004, let alone be the Warden of Haliburton County," Davis said. "The position of warden is, without a doubt, a great honour and a privilege and I can assure the people of Haliburton County that I will uphold the honour and integrity of this office."

Davis noted that he has heard wardens-elect in the past outline what they hoped to achieve in their terms of office, "only to learn that a year passes very quickly and the bureaucracy moves so slowly that many objectives and goals aren't realized during their tour of duty."

He has decided to take a different approach.

"What I am going to outline for you is a work in progress which includes much unfinished business over the past three years," Davis said. "During 2003, the County continued to work on a number of significant projects that have had an implementation time frame extending over several years."

Specifically, he cited the 911 emergency call answering

system, Connect Ontario, official plans at municipality and county levels and the updating of the strategic plan.

"During 2004, the county should realize the completion of certain projects and be able to move forward to the next stages on others," he said. "With a concentrated effort to finalize 911 signage installation as well as the completion of the 911 data base that is required to present to Bell Canada, it is expected that 911 will be operational before the end of the summer of 2004. This will require council consideration at both the township and county levels for the process to be put in place for the ongoing maintenance of the 911 system."

Davis agrees that high-speed communications are essential to the prosperity of the county. "The county has worked hard over the past two years to develop the business case necessary to convince senior levels of government to invest in a high-speed telecommunications network for Haliburton County. The county and stakeholder partners such as Trillium Lakelands District School Board and Sir Sandford Fleming College will need to continue to work diligently to realize improvements to our communications capabilities to ensure that our residents and business community have the same opportunities that are available in larger centres," Davis said.

He said the county will be moving forward to address some of the barriers to accessibility identified in the recently completed Accessibility Plan. "With the assistance of the committee, we will be identifying additional areas where improvements can be made," Davis said.

The library board is nearing completion of a strategic plan and Davis said county council will need to secure input from the townships and move toward implementing some efficiencies and improvements to the overall library system for the benefit of all ratepayers in the county.

"Good decisions are arrived at through consensus," Davis said. "Consensus is the result of teamwork. The tasks are at hand and the team around this table is more than ready to tackle these issues."



The county's former warden, Minden Hills Reeve Ross Rigney, passes the chain of office to the incoming warden, Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Bill Davis at Tuesday's inaugural.

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FREE Family Fun Skate
at the Minden Arena
on January 2 from 1 to 3 pm.



Free draw prizes, stickers for children
and guaranteed fun!

Delta Pinestone offers free accommodation to families of hospital patients

Capturing the true spirit of giving, Delta Pinestone Resort will offer complimentary accommodation to out-of-town families visiting hospitalized relatives through its annual program, A Home for the Holidays. This year, Delta Pinestone Resort will partner with both the Minden and Haliburton hospitals, offering complimentary rooms between December 15 and January 4.

"A Home for the Holidays is a wonderful opportunity for us to help out those in need by offering available rooms," says Scott de Savoye, general manager at Delta Pinestone Resort.

Alison Bangay, the resort's executive housekeeper and Home for the Holidays program coordinator added, "It's a natural fit for us. We can ease some of the stress that inevitably comes when a family member becomes a caregiver to a hospitalized relative during the holidays."

Families wishing to participate in A Home for the Holidays must apply through either local hospital. A limited number of rooms are available, and eligibility criteria will apply.

Throughout the year, Delta Pinestone Resort has participated in a number of community projects, including food drives, parades, golf tournaments and other fundraising projects.



Darren Lum/TIMES

Generation joy

Friends and family visited the Extendicare residence in Haliburton during the Christmas celebration when carols were sung and scrumptious season dishes were served. The Crowe family of Minden came to visit with great great grandmother Violet Dovell. From left to right, front to back are young Megan MacDuff, with cousin Nathan Crowe and his sister Courtney Crowe, great grandmother, Roselyn MacDuff, great great grandmother, Violet Dovell, grandmother Jessie Dovell, brother-in-law Reg MacDuff to Jessie, and Tammy Crowe, holding her daughter Emma Crowe.



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

FROM MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
HALIBURTON COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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Ian Douglas
Dwight Thomas
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"Wishing all a healthy and safe holiday season"



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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Marketing is essential for growth

It has often been said that it takes money to make money. That may very well be true. It is certainly a theory to which the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce subscribes.

Representatives of the Chamber attended County Council to get an early bid in for increased funding to market the county.

Council won't have a draft budget prepared until some time in February, but the Chamber is on the ball, by making sure councillors know what the goals of the Chamber are and what it will take to realize those goals from a financial perspective.

The Chamber has identified the population within a two to three hour drive of Haliburton County as the biggest potential market for the county's business community. The goal is to focus primarily on that potential market while spending less time and energy on others.

The chamber's website can be the major marketing tool for those from outside the three-hour perimeter. It should be expanded to include as much information as possible, including photos of the area and descriptive prose designed to lure tourists from around the globe. We have so much to offer here and the website doesn't begin to scratch the surface. But a good website requires time and talent to be effective. It must be continually updated as new attractions are developed and new services are established. Few things will turn a web surfer off faster than outdated information or the dreaded "404 file not found" message.

Good webmasters aren't cheap. Even if the Chamber can encourage writers from other parts of the province or world to come here and sing the praises of Haliburton County, as is proposed in its marketing plan for 2004-05, the information still has to be uploaded to the website. It must be presented in such a way as to encourage the surfer to actually want to learn more about the attractions and want to find out more. All pages should have a link to the Chamber, complete with toll-free telephone number, e-mail address and contact names. Attention to detail will ensure the surfer's interest is held.

Attracting tourists to this area is a complicated and time-consuming endeavour and it can't be done on a shoestring budget.

If the county can be convinced to find the money in the budget to provide a quality, diverse marketing strategy, the resulting increase in tourism will have a financial benefit to almost everyone in the county. Business owners who earn money from the tourists spend it on supplies and human resources. Profits are spent in the community and that money filters throughout the local economy.

There was a time in the past, when the county didn't get the bang for its buck that was expected. Most members of county council have been around long enough to remember those days and some may still harbour some misgivings about the Chamber's ability to deliver.

A couple of questions must be pondered.

Do the members of council have the confidence in the Chamber's personnel to deliver the goods – to attract enough additional tourist dollars to the county to justify an increase in funding? And, more importantly, does county council really want to increase tourism to the county? Some of our taxpayers might prefer Haliburton County discourage an influx of tourism, especially those seasonal residents who resent sharing their piece of heaven.

We believe this council has the foresight to realize Haliburton County can't stagnate and expect to prosper. If councillors don't have the confidence in the Chamber to deliver a winning marketing strategy, it should consider channeling funds to a marketing company in which it has confidence.

jg



IMAGES OF THE HIGHLANDS

A Christmas character

Photo by DARREN LUM/Times

TO THE EDITOR

Times readers write

When more is too much

To the Editor:

The editorial of December 1 was right on the mark, as was Neil Campbell's letter.

I also found page 14 and its opposite – page 15 (was that intentional?) food for thought: p. 14 "Councillors give themselves a raise." p. 15 "County vows to lower tax rate."

We can appreciate that the councillors workload has increased and it's fair that they should get added remuneration for the extra work load but I don't recall any one of them running on a slate that included a plus 56% increase in their allowance.

What a message to convey to the municipal employees when their contracts come up for renewal.

And what a message to convey to the taxpayers of Haliburton in showing they are serious about lowering the tax rate. The taxpayers of Ontario already pay the highest property taxes in Canada and Market Value Assessment was not intro-

duced to give municipal councils a new cash cow.

In Haliburton County better than 80% of its assessment is on taxpayers who are not permitted to avail themselves of educational services (one of the largest parts of their tax bill) and exercise a limited demand for the other services, yet their assessments are higher in every case. That's an unfairness that needs to be recognized and remedied!

Art Wall
Maple Lake

Officer behind plaque

To the Editor:

I was present when the plaque honouring the sacrifice of D/Sgt. Lorne Chapitis and Cpl. Jim Smith was unveiled at Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment on December 1st, and read with interest, in your
see LOCAL page 9

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IN OTHER WORDS

Columnists and Letters to the Editor

Crime and Punishment

With Saddam Hussein finally in captivity, there's much speculation about his upcoming unbiased trial and the certain guilty verdict that's sure to follow.

In an excellent example of western efficiency and foresight, many are calling for the life imprisonment of the dictator prior to even hearing the evidence.

Others are demanding that he take the stand but only after undergoing a preliminary execution. Then there are those hot-heads who hope to see him suffer both punishments, though not necessarily in that particular order.

Personally, I believe none of these options serve the purpose of repaying Iraqi society - in an entertaining, major network, cable news kind of way - for the wrongdoings committed by this man.

If we are to call ourselves a civilized society, we must find a better way.

We must never forget that we live in a culture built and based on the unwavering principles of human rights, dignity and complete and total up to the minute coverage. Yes, we need to make this commercially viable.

That's why I think that they should put him back in the hole from which he emerged. Then, each February, as he pops his head up and checks for his shadow, the Iraqi people will finally know whether there's going to be six more weeks of winter.

Then and only then, will his life, and this conflict, have real meaning.

Picture, if you will, the former Iraqi Minister of Information as he opens the festivities each year, addressing the gathered media with a speech intended to convince the world that Saddam is, in fact, a groundhog named Saddy. He will then refer to the hole as the Iraqi Ministry of Weather Prediction and completely deny that there was ever a war.

Meanwhile, while we're waiting for Saddy to emerge, Dan Rather will banter semi-intelligent thoughts with a Middle Eastern Specialist who is also a renowned

expert on the subject of long-toothed ground-dwelling rodents. Together, they'll speculate ad nauseam as to whether this particular groundhog is harboring, or has in fact ever harbored weapons of mass destruction. They'll also analyze accusations that Saddy has plundered neighboring alfalfa fields. And, in an effort to enhance our understanding of these momentous events, they'll constantly cut over to computer animated graphics of the actual hole in relation to the US-managed oil reserves. Further to that, they'll build a scale model Habitat system occupied by a gerbil meticulously groomed to look just like a miniature Saddam. Unfortunately, they'll have technical difficulties just prior to the in-depth interview with the gerbil's hair stylist and make up artist and so our understanding of the situation will not be absolutely complete.



BEYOND35

Steve Galea

Even so, all this important journalism will help the world better understand the crisis that will occur when Saddy ultimately refuses to come out of his hole or let UN inspectors crawl in it.

The West will try to negotiate a settlement, even going so far as to relinquish concession stand rights and allow him to sign exclusively with one of the major networks. These talks, however, will fail. Then, the US military and special elements of the Humane Society's ultra-elite, tactical ground hog removal unit (UET-GHRU) will team up in a joint covert mission and extract him from the objective in a daring, fully televised midnight raid sponsored by Hartz and Purina.

Soon we will, once again, be seeing exclusive news footage of the tunnel in which the former dictator hid, as well as film of him getting both distemper shots and a flea bath. He'll then be taken to a secret humane society holding facility.

Unfortunately, six days later, after no one adopts him, he'll have to be put down. Hey, that's just how a humane society works.

Going to pot

Did I ever tell you about the time I impersonated a cop? Relax, sergeant - it was several years ago, in another provincial jurisdiction.

I lived in the sticks at the time, the hour hand had long passed midnight and some Party-Hearties in a house down the road were making noise. 'Way too much noise. I took it for an hour and a half and then I called the cops. A bored dispatcher informed me that, as it was the weekend and due to budgetary cutbacks, no police were actually on duty, but an officer could be summoned from a nearby jurisdiction 'in an extreme emergency'.

I was younger then, with a shorter fuse and not nearly the level of urbanity and tolerance for which I am so justly renowned today.

Accordingly, I slammed down the phone, said some bad words, then put on my police hat and loaded my police dog into my car. Together we drove down the road and fetched up in the driveway of the aforementioned party house.

A word about my police hat. And my police dog:

The hat was a nylon mesh cap I picked up after a charity soft ball game between a rural police detachment and the radio station I worked for.

(Over a post-game beer, the cop who played shortstop informed me that he coveted my CBC ball cap. We swapped.) The crest on the front of my new cap

read ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE, SOUTH PORCUPINE. Not exactly a slogan calculated to strike fear in the heart of malfasants, but a collectors item nonetheless.

My 'police' dog Rufus was, in truth, a mangy border collie/indeterminate mix, but I hoped that in the dark and from a distance he might pass for an Alsatian on duty.

I hammered on the front door, which was ajar, walked in, and in my best Lorne Greene voice of doom, boomed "WE'VE HAD SEVERAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NOISE YOU PEOPLE ARE MAKING. IF YOU CAN'T TONE IT DOWN, I'M GONNA HAVE TO LAY CHARGES." What I did was totally illegal, not to mention surpassingly stupid, but it worked like a charm. Know why?

Because it was a pot party, not a booze party. The place reeked of grass, and as I delivered my speech people all over the room were surreptitiously divesting themselves of baggies, stubbing out roaches and desperately trying not to exhale in my face.

What's more, they were all stoned.

Instead of seeing me as the ridiculous impostor I clearly was, they figured the dope they were smoking was unusually excellent.

Know what would have happened to me if that had been a booze party instead of a pot party? There's a good chance I'd have been stomped into a carpet stain.

And I'm not exaggerating. That very thing happened to a lawyer in Squamish, B.C. two summers ago. He went to a booze party at a neighbour's house to ask them to pipe down. Two of the knuckle-dragging juiceheads in attendance kicked him to death on the spot.

All of which is a long-winded way of getting to my point,

which is: why the hypocrisy about marijuana?

The federal New Democrats are doing backflips to distance themselves from their leader Jack Layton's rather brave endorsement of the substance. Politicos of other stripes are puffing themselves up to solemnly intone how they've never touched the stuff - and who can forget Bill Clinton's pathetic cavil "I smoked, but I didn't inhale."

Well, I did, Bill - and what's more I

don't personally know a single adult - not one - who hasn't tried pot at least once. It's no big deal, folks. Let's finally admit it.

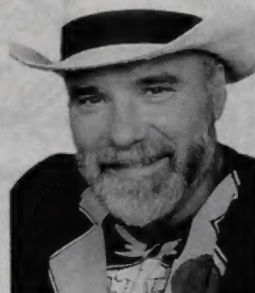
Am I advocating that everybody smoke pot? No. I don't smoke it any more because it's too expensive, not worth the hassle and it makes me stupid. When I'm on grass I have all the verve and panache of a rutabaga.

It also makes me hungry and lazy - two conditions I have enough trouble grappling with when I'm clear-headed.

All I'm saying is: let's stop being two-faced about it. Booze causes a hundred times the grief, bloodshed and property damage that pot does, but we turn a blind eye because through a fluke of justice and thanks to the twisted interpretations of seedy old perverts like J. Edgar Hoover and Alberta's own Emily Murphy, alcohol is legal and marijuana isn't.

The Canadian legal system is woefully staggering towards righting this absurdity, but it's not there yet, so think twice or even three times before you flout the law, even if the law is, to paraphrase Dickens, a demonstrable ass when it comes to weed.

And if you must smoke, keep it down. Because I don't want to have to put on my police hat and come over and bust you.



ARTHUR BLACK

Columnist

Local constable was driving force behind plaque project

from page 8

December 8th issue, the very complete coverage of the unveiling and the tragic death of Officers Chapitis and Smith in 1968.

I would like to draw to your attention a fairly major omission in your December 8th article. Although Ms. Perkins properly credited our OPP veterans for their substantial financial contribution to the plaque,

there was no mention of the driving force behind the memorial, Detective Constable Rob Orłowski of the Haliburton Highlands detachment. Rob came up with the idea of honouring our slain members in the area in which they'd died, and approached the local retirees, many of whom had known both Chapitis and Smith, for their assistance. He took their substantial donation, obtained additional funding from 8 Branch

of the Ontario Provincial Police Association, and did all the legwork necessary to bring his idea to fruition. Since Rob is a local resident, and has served there for his entire career, your community should be proud of his very significant contribution to the project.

Doug Lewis, Secretary
Ontario Provincial Police Association
Number 8 Branch

Evening meetings may not be best

To the Editor:

Our big snowstorm on Dec. 1 (MP John O'Reilly deserves a medal for driving up from Lindsay in it) and our power failure on Dec. 2 point out that

see FORMER page 10

Former councillor offers best wishes to new council

from page 9

evening council meetings may not be the best. I can remember some old howlers of trips home from late meetings at Lutterworth. We'll see what our new council decides.

Aside from night meetings, those of us who formed Minden Hills' first council can be really proud. We all ran against excellent, experienced people who would have made a terrific council. Except for the three running for my old job, only three people ran this time. Has interest in local politics died?

I thank all of our council and staff for helping Sandy and me through the worst summer of my life. May you have a great three years with Reeve Ross Rigney and his two new council members.

Bill Valentine
Moore's Falls

Reader offers 'credit where it is due'

To the Editor:

I have made a few comments in the past about the condition of Bacon's Road.

Today I wish to compliment the workers and supervisor on the winter maintenance of this road, on which they have done a good job.

I would like to wish all the workers, supervisors and Minden Hills Council a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mervin A. Barry
RR1, Minden

Scott says retroactive tax increase 'unfair' to campground operators

Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Victoria-Brock, in a statement in the Legislature last week, asked the Minister of Finance to review the decision of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to increase taxes on trailers in Ontario's campgrounds.

In November the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation issued "omitted assessment notices" to campground owners so that they may collect more taxes on trailers on their grounds.

More onerous was the decision to do so retroactively on their 2003 tax year.

Scott said, "the increase on this tax is unwarranted and the fact that it is retroactive is hurtful to the hard working tourism operators in my riding and across Ontario." Scott asked the Minister to review this increase and its' retroactivity.

"These small business owners in my riding and around the province cannot afford this type of increase," she said. "Preventing jobs and prosperity in this region is not what the people expect from this government."

Vandalising Grinches arrested in Minden

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands detachment of the OPP were on routine patrol in Minden at 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 18 when they discovered someone had damaged the Christmas decorations on Main Street. Checking the area, the officers arrested two males a short time later in relation to

the damage.

Two 19-year-old Minden males were charged with mischief under \$5,000, contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada. They are scheduled to appear in provincial court in Minden on February 4 in relation to the charges.

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Brad, Mary, Linda, Mike



Delicious reward:

Archie Stouffer Elementary School's Grade 5/6 class, taught by Bonnie Berry, were judged winners (Grade 5s) in a road safety contest sponsored by the Haliburton Highlands Community Action Group (HHCAG). The class won for creating the best looking collection of posters that also properly conveyed the message of road safety and to not mix drinking, driving and drugs. OPP Const. Mark McMaster, an HHCAG member, presented the enthusiastic class with eight pizzas during lunch hour on Friday, Dec. 19. Other HHCAG members on hand were Angie Andrews from the Health Unit and Fourcast addiction counsellor Tricia McCarthy. HHCAG member, Trudy Hawthorn, an HHSS librarian, could not attend. The county-wide contest was open to all Grade 5 classes, who were given two weeks, starting Nov. 10, to complete the project.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Thank You

This past year has been a challenging one, it is true. But we owe our success to each one of you. Without your support we wouldn't be here. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making the journey a worthwhile one.

Happy Holidays

from George and Mary

GEORGE'S auto

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With Warm Holiday Greetings

At this special time of year we want to thank our friends and wish them all the joy and peace of an old-fashioned Christmas.

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B.A., L.L.B.

Julia Robertson, Shirley Horsley, Linda Cummins, Glenda Burk, Susan Vasey,
Karen Colliss, Gail Parish, Lyn Boone and Sam

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In Season, Every Season

*May Joy, Peace and Happiness of the Season
Be with you throughout the Year.*

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Wednesday, December 24th, 2003 at 12:00 noon	Closed
Thursday/Friday - December 25th and 26th, 2003	Closed
Wednesday, December 31st, 2003 at 12:00 noon	Closed
Thursday, January 1st, 2004	Closed
Friday, January 2nd, 2004	Open

**Public Skating
at the
S.G. NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA**
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December 23rd, 2003	January 2nd, 2004
December 28th, 2003	January 4th, 2004
December 30th, 2003	

*A colourful, tuneful
celebration of Christmas
at Archie Stouffer Elementary*



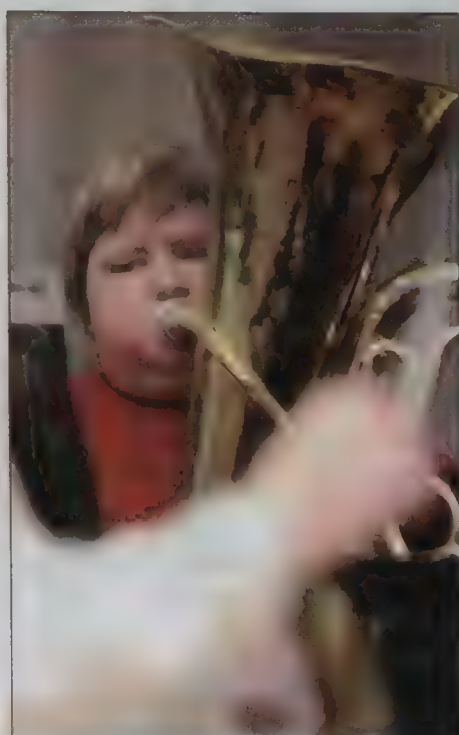
ASES Education Assistant Sue Payne applauds the performance by the ASES Grades 4 -8 choir, sharing the experience with ASES student Emily Bunn. The students sang Christmas classics on Friday morning, Dec. 19., and poked a little fun at Santa Claus with joyous tunes referring to his waistline



ASES student Mitch Rea wails on the saxophone during the Christmas assembly.



The assembly included Bob Cratchett and other 'A Christmas Carol' characters



ASES student Joe Findeis booms out a Christmas tune with his tuba at the annual Christmas assembly held on the last day before holidays, Friday, Dec. 19.

Photos by
Darren Lum
Times



The ASES Grade 4 -8 choir are led by Lori Reddering during a song that poked fun at the big man in the red suit.

The many faces of Santa

Catherine Nutt

celebrates the magical, generous, man in dolls that are as individual as the people who commission them

by ERIN LYNCH
special to The Times

Heritage Santa Doll maker Catherine Nutt recalls making her first doll. She was six years old and was up at the family's cottage on Gull Lake. It had been raining for three days. Bored, she cut up her grandmother's new curtains and sheets and made dolls for her sisters and herself. Her punishment was to help make new curtains. This is when she learned to sew.

More than 40 years later her sister still has one of these dolls and Catherine Nutt is at the forefront of her craft.

Catherine lives in Kinburn, Ontario. Her family has cottaged on Gull Lake for 80 years. In the original log cabin cottage hangs a receipt, dated 80 years ago, written on a piece of wood for \$130. The logs were floated across the lake to build it.

Starting as a collector with over 400 Santas made out of every medium from wood, fabric and clay, Catherine has been making heritage Santa dolls for 10 years.

She became interested in doll making when she couldn't find the European quality of Santa dolls in Canada. She spent 17 years in England with her husband who was in the Royal Air Force. Inspired by the German Santa dolls, she has made 683 heritage Santa dolls to date.

The faces and hands of most figures are sculpted from a polymer modeling clay called cernitt, which while strong is very translucent and gives natural wrinkles, a life-like quality. Catherine says she started off with porcelain faces but felt it didn't leave anything to the imagination.

People have commented that her dolls look like the people she knows. "Some have said the faces look like my husband," says Catherine. She acknowledges that when she was looking after an ailing uncle with Alzheimer's, all her dolls seemed to take on his look because she was so often studying his face.

Every doll that comes out of her workshop is an original, signed, numbered and photographed. All the hair and beards are fashioned from natural fibres, she designs all the clothes herself. Many of the toys and accessories are hand made by either Catherine or for her and then painted by hand. The dolls range in price from \$10 for acorn and pinecone dolls up to two and three thousand dollars.

She has been featured in Dolls Magazine. Catherine will be involved in a puppet sym-



It's hard not to smile when you see the expression on this Santa Claus, posing with his maker, Catherine Nutt



An uncannily human looking angel



Santa with one of his special reindeer



A colourful angel

posium next July in Almont, Ontario, with nationally known puppeteer, Norean Young. She is also featured in a video which will be in a puppet kit produced for retailer Lee Valley.

Ninety per cent of Catharine's business is custom orders, with the majority of the people being collectors. She is a participant of the Red Trillium Studio tour held twice a year in the West Carleton district. She also participates in the prestigious One-of-a-Kind Craft Show in Toronto. Catherine has sold dolls off the internet all over the world from her website www.santadollmaker.com.

She says that often people will send family memorabilia and want them incorporated into a doll: a piece of fur coat, a pocket watch, a toy etc. Nutt has a contractor client who builds million dollar homes and then puts a doll in each new house.

A client from California sent her pictures of her house to make sure the "funky black

angels" commissioned would match her home. Then there is the golfer who wanted a 3ft tall golfing wizard with a flowing cape.

Needless to say, Christmas has always been a big deal in Nutt's family. Nutt reminisces about the old-fashioned Christmas post-cards that her great grandmother used to have and the many family gatherings in Erindale (Mississauga) and Oakville when she was a child.

"I've always loved Santa," says Catherine, admitting to a lifelong fascination. "He's magical, he's giving, he's universal, and he's just wonderful."

She remembers that at the age of 10, living in Kitchener, her family arranged for a Santa Claus to come and knock on the door of every house on the street. "He had a real beard, I know, because my sister pulled it," says Nutt, "And there were sleigh and reindeer tracks on every roof on the street. It was a magical experience for a child."



Amazingly detailed and expressive faces are a hallmark of Catherine Nutt's dolls



Ontario Special Olympics

Master Bowler Terry Smith, left, and Kinmount's Carrie Crego were thrilled to meet Gerry Howarth, voice of the Blue Jays, at a recent bowling tournament in Toronto. Crego of Kinmount, an athlete of the Red Wolves 5 Pin Bowling team, represented Haliburton County/Reg. 12 at the 2003 MBA/OSO Invitational Doubles Tournament in Toronto on Nov. 29 and 30. Carrie placed eighth out of 72. Carrie has also qualified for the 2004 Ontario Special Olympics Spring Games, Peterborough, June 10-13th.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec. 24	7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 & 26	CLOSED
Dec. 27	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 28	CLOSED
Dec. 29	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 30	7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 31	7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 1	CLOSED



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Sunday, December 21 - Advent 4

St. Paul's, Minden	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Sung Holy Communion & Family Service
St. Peter's, Maple Lake	11:15 am	Sung Eucharist
St. John's, Irondale	9:30 am	Prayer & Praise Communion
St. James', Kinmount	11:15 am	Sung Family Eucharist

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

St. Paul's, Minden	7:00 pm	Family Holy Communion
	11:00 pm	Midnight Eucharist & Carols
St. John's, Irondale	7:00 pm	Family Christmas Service
St. James', Kinmount	9:00 pm	Family Christmas Communion

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

St. Peter's, Maple Lake	10:00 am	Family Christmas Communion
-------------------------	----------	----------------------------

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Ministry Team

Rev. Riscylla Shaw Barb Trocewicz Rev. Tim Sharpe
Rectory 286-1817 Church Office Phone 286-2541

Bowling scores

around the county

Carnarvon Bowling League

Thursday Afternoon Dec 18

High average: Ken Thompson 240;
Josie Cheesman 178
High single: Ken Thompson 268;
Joyce Chilton 221
High single (handicap): Bill Hogg 254;
Joyce Chilton 290
Triple high: Ken Thompson 722;
Joise Cheesman 534
High Triple (handicap): Bill Hogg 697;
Joyce Chilton 707

Tuesday Afternoon Dec 9

High average: Ken Thompson 217; Lillian Mattsson 179
High single: Ken Thompson 282;
Jean Pugh 234
High single (handicap): Ken Thompson 288; Lois Finlay 285
High triple: Ken Thompson 715;
Jean Pugh 697
High triple (handicap): Ken Thompson 733;
Jean Pugh 829

Wednesday Afternoon Dec 10

High average: Ken Thompson 213;
Jean Pugh 167
High single: Fred Phipps;
Norma Terro 220
Sigh single (handicap): Fred Phipps 336;
Norma Terro 292
High triple: Ken Thompson 706;
Jean Pugh 562
High triple (handicap): Vern Stout 768;
Marg Schepers 736

Tuesday Afternoon Dec 16

High average: Ken Thompson 217; Lillian Mattsson 180
High single: Chris Hill 257;
Lillian Mattsson 223
High single (handicap): Ed Rhynold 299;
Lillian Mattsson 260

High triple: Ken Thompson 649;

Lillian Mattsson 580

High triple (handicap): Ed Rhynold 756;
Lois Finlay 756

Wednesday Afternoon Dec 17

High average: Ken Thompson 213; Jean Pugh 167
High single: Ken Thompson 260; Janet McGrath 221
High single (handicap): Bev Hunt 265;
Janet McGrath 275
High triple: Ken Thompson 659; Janet McGrath 550
High triple (handicap): Robert Terro 747;
Janet McGrath 772

Minden Lanes Bowling

Legion 636 Mixed League Dec. 15

High average: Bob Vankoughnet 188;
Leitha Stearns 148
High single: Tom Foster 226;
Estella Beach 180
High triple: Tom Foster 614;
Beryl Hannington 494
High single (handicap): Tom Foster 264;
Estella Beach 254
High triple (handicap): Tom Foster 728;
Beryl Hannington 698
Gutter Groupies def. Miss 'N' Hit
Happy Gang def. Low Rollers
Ink Spots def. Sure Shots

Legion 636 Mixed League Dec. 8

High average: Bob Vankoughnet 190;
Leitha Stearns 148
High single: Tom Foster 212;
June Anderson & Doreen Francis 174
High triple: Tom Foster 532;
June Anderson 444
High single (handicap): Pat Bailey 262;
Mandy Rigby 250
High triple (handicap): Roy Thompson 695;
Pat Roussel 654



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The Catholic Community Says

"Won't you come home for Christmas"

If you are not a regular church goer, I encourage you to think about coming home. Bring the family and put Christ back into your Christmas. We as your Catholic community, would like to share the spirit of Christmas with you and yours.

CHRISTMAS EVE • Wednesday, December 24th

- St. Patrick's, Kinmount - Family Mass - 7:30 p.m. (bring the children) Phone: 705-488-2222
- Our Lady of Fatima, Minden - Traditional Midnight Mass - 11:45 p.m. Phone: 1-800-670-4360

CHRISTMAS DAY • Thursday, December 25th

- St. Patrick's, Kinmount - Mass - 9:00 a.m.
- Our Lady of Fatima, Minden - Family Mass - 11:00 a.m. (bring the children)

NEW YEAR'S DAY (A holy day of obligation)

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Wednesday, December 31st

- Our Lady of Fatima, Minden - Mass - 5:00 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Thursday, January 1st

- St. Patrick's, Kinmount - Mass - 9:00 a.m.
- Our Lady of Fatima, Minden - Mass - 11:00 a.m.

Red Hawks still top league with seven wins so far

Aaron Donaldson started the scoring minutes into the first period of the game with an unassisted goal. It proved to be the game winner as the Red Hawks shutout the LCVI Spartans 5-0 at home on Dec. 15. Donaldson added another goal for two points. Sean Keaney and Evan Kernohan both added two points, one goal and an assist in the win. The Red Hawks remain tops in the Kawartha AA division with a record of 7-1-2. HHSS goalie Andy Dawson recorded the shutout.

Right: A loose puck in the neutral zone lies waiting for a HHSS forward in the third period against the visiting LCVI Spartans.



Lester racing team looking to improve after difficult start

The Canadian Snocross Racing Association's (CSRA) National and Regional Championship Series opened at Searchmount Resort in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

A. J. Lester, the 2002 CSRA Semi-Pro Champ, returned to CSRA racing after losing his left knee cap in a serious incident last season. Lester had a less than stellar weekend, working against a persistent flu. While carding some impressive qualifying finishes, Lester could not sustain his pace as he struggled with reduced energy.

In 600 action he started strongly but faded and ultimately left the race before the finish. In Open racing Lester carded a 12th at the checkered flag.

In 440 action he hit the first turn with a

commanding start. Running in second place, Lester and Noel Kahanski had an unfortunate tangle which left Lester in 12th at the finish.

Jaymie McPhail, the Sport Class sensation from Haliburton, scored a 6th in Sport 600 from the back row and went out and posted a fourth in Sport 500. The series moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba this past weekend joining with the WSA (World Snocross Association) in a double header US/Canadian national event.

A. J. Lester, had a frustrating weekend, coming oh-so-close to qualifying for both the Pro Open and Pro 440 Finals. However, it was not to be. He is anxious to get back onto the race track at the next CSRA National Round in Rouyn Noranda, Quebec.

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WINTER GUIDE

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Notice of Liquor Licence Application



The following establishment has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence under the Liquor Licence Act:

Application for a Sale Licence

Brown Owl Restaurant
Highway 35 & South Water Street, Minden

Any resident of the municipality may make a written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Submissions must be received no later than **January 12, 2004**. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person.

Note:

The AGCO gives the applicant copies of any objections.

Submissions to be sent to:
Licensing and Registration Department
Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
20 Dundas St. W., 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2N6
Fax: 416-326-5555
E-mail: licensing@agco.on.ca

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HEALTH UNIT HOLIDAY HOURS

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit will be closed for the holiday season on December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1, 2004.



Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the staff of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit...Your Health Partner for Life!



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Churches plan special Christmas services

Dinner and Music Night a popular event to take chill off of winter

"And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was."

Matthew 2:9

Knox United Church, Dorset, will hold a Christmas Eve Service at the church at 4pm and all are welcome to come. Blessings of the season from Knox United Church and a Merry Christmas to all. St. Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church, Dorset, will hold a Christmas Eve service at the church at 9pm: the story of Jesus' birth, Christmas Music and Holy Communion and all are welcome.

Paul and Nancy Morley are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 27. All are welcome to attend an open house (best wishes only) at Zachary's Restaurant between 2 and 5pm to help Paul and Nancy celebrate. For more information, call Vicki Morley at 905-830-3452.

There are still some Dorset Heritage Museum 2004 Calendars available, they make a great stocking stuffer and are available at the Township Office (Dorset), Robinson's General Store, the Dorset post office, Dorset



DORSET NEWS

Melissa Alfano

705-766-0076

melalfano@hotmail.com

Tim-Br Mart, Mountain Trout House Marina and Old Mill Marine. Also available from the Museum are Gary Long's books, "The Gilmour Tramway" and "When Giants Fall". For more information call Norm at 766-2814.

The 7th Annual Dinner and Music Night at the Dorset Recreation Centre takes place on Saturday, January 10th - dinner at 6pm. Reservations are required by calling 766-9968. Dinner is provided by the Dorset Lifeliners and includes Chili & Biscuits, salads, dessert, coffee, tea or juice all for only \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Vegetarian chili is available - please indicate your preference when you reserve. Stay after dinner and enjoy music provided by local musicians. If you would like to

participate in the musical portion of the evening, please call Joe Alfano at 766-0076.

The Dorset Volunteer Fire Department will serve dinner & refreshments at Hollow Valley Lodge on Saturday, January 31, 2004 as a fundraiser to sponsor a child at Camp Bucko - a camp for burned children. Refreshments will be served at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. The cost is \$17.50 per person and includes chicken and ribs, potato salad and dessert. Entertainment will be provided by Lincoln Miller. Reserved seating only. For tickets call Donna at 766-9253.

Birthday wishes for December 21 to January 3 go out to Nancy Morley, Karen Knutt, Becky Mead, Kyle Chatelain, Hailey Pulfrey, Rebecca Arbuckle, Len Whitworth, Larry Bradbury and John Clayton and Happy 60th Anniversary to Paul and Nancy Morley. Have a wonderful day!

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous year in 2004. The Dorset News will be back the week of January 5th.

To submit something for the Dorset news send E-mail to melalfano@hotmail.com, or call at 766-0076.

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Kinmount's colourful welcome



*Santa
rode into
Kinmount
last Sunday,
drawn by
a team of
horses*



Environmental Assessment of a Proposed Bell Canada Tower Site on Hadlington Road

Bell Canada is planning to construct a telecommunications tower, approximately 200 feet in height, on the Hadlington Road.† The new tower will give residents of that area access to basic phone service.

A site for the tower has been selected, as shown on the accompanying map.† As you may be aware, that site is on Crown land.† In order to acquire rights to the site, Bell Canada has applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for a long term licence of occupation.† To fulfill its obligations under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act, the MNR must evaluate the potential impacts that the tower could have on the natural environment and on existing human activities, before making a decision about Bell's application.† In this regard, input from the local residents who could be affected by the tower will be taken into consideration. †Both supporting and critical comments may be expressed.

You are invited to direct any comments you may have about the proposed tower to:

Scott Bird
Minden Area Office
P.O. Box 820
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Tel: (705) 286-5223
Fax: (705) 286-4355
E-Mail: scott.bird@mnr.gov.on.ca

Any inquiries that you may have concerning the actual tower or the activities involved in its construction should be made to:

Brian Reurink
Senior Project Manager
479 Clarence St, C2
London, Ontario N6A 4L6
Tel: (519) 661-2613
Fax: (519) 660-0345
E-Mail: breurink@nexacor.ca

Comments must be received by the MNR before **January 12, 2004**. Please be aware that your comments may be forwarded to Bell Canada, unless you specifically request otherwise.



Township of Minden Hills
In Season, Every Season

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

January 7th, 2003 at 3:00 pm

at the Minden Community Centre

for the purpose of discussing
and awarding the tender and
proposed location of the
new municipal building.

Future Council Meetings Change in Time

Please Note: The regular **Council meetings** for the Township of Minden Hills, normally held on the last Thursday of Each month, will now be held at **3:00 pm** in Council Chambers. COW/General Committee meetings will remain at the same time and location.

While on

Holidays

Winter Guide



- EVENTS & ADVENTURES • SKIING
- SNOWMOBILING • DOGSLEDDING
- ICE FISHING • CURLING
- SNOWSHOEING
- DINING & ENTERTAINMENT
- ACCOMMODATION • SHOPPING

**Pick up your copy of
Winter Guide 2004**



One of the floats that took part in Kinmount's Santa Claus parade last weekend

from page 18

followed closely by Gala Stamp 281 and then Verna McDonald 274. Moonshots landed on Edith Burch, Rob Evans and Pat Roussel with Anne Baker, Elva Paisley and Rob Evans holding the hidden scores.

Tuesday, December 16 euchre at Lochlin Community Centre: For the gents Don Curry had the high score and Doug Carpenter the low. Leading the ladies was Eleanor Young with Isabelle Saunders low lady, George Bartley holding the most lone hands and Ralph Young winning the special draw. Barb Carpenter wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and thanks them for their help and participation during 2003. The next euchre at Lochlin is scheduled for January 13th.

Tuesday, December 16 contract bridge at Stanhope: There were three Slams going to Dorothy Thayer and Chuck Wilson, Reet Murray and Doug McIntosh and Harold Cox teamed with Len McNeice [a.k.a. the "Young and the Restless"]. Harold led the scoring at 6540 followed by Dorothy Strype 5470, Gloria Moore 5310 and Doug McIntosh 5230 while Len McNeice took the lucky draw prize. For his Special Award Harold Cox was presented with the "G.P.O.B." so everyone will know he is indeed the "Grand Pooh-Bah of Bridge."

Tuesday, December 16 Stanhope Firehall Seniors

Social Club Mixed Shuffleboard: The top duo was Syd Lockhart and Helen Skelding with 467 then Paul Poulton teamed with Beverley Alexander 338 and Marj Hamilton partnered with Ellen Holden at 308. The afternoon's low score went to Bob Alexander and Sandy Poulton at 144. Birthday wishes were extended to Pearl Cowen by her many

friends.

Wednesday, December 17 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: Using the Howell system Don Mills and Bill Sandford took top spot at 67% with Margo Davidson and Doug McIntosh next at 60%. Tied for third place at 57 % were Muriel McIntosh and Ross Fletcher and Kelly Metcalf partnered with Ross Davies.

Wednesday, December 17 bid euchre at Stanhope: Single moonshots went to Alf Helleman, Marcel Roussel. Pat Roussel and Alf Whyman with Rob Evans taking two. Leading the pinks was Sharon Evans 274 followed by Pat Roussel 259 and Verna Sawyer 256. For the white cards it was Alf Helleman in top spot at 277 then Milton Fletcher 273 and Pat Scadden 263. Rob and Sharon Evans wish all our card friends a happy holiday and remind that the next bid euchre will be on January 7th.

Wednesday, December 17 Kinmount Seniors euchre at the Kinmount Legion Branch 441: For the ladies Sally Taylor had the high score and Mary Wilkins was low. High man was Roger Fournier and low man was Jim Corbett while Theresa Deak held the most lone hands. Ted Wilkins won the special draw with Mildred St. Thomas receiving the first draw prize. Mildred reminds that there will be no euchre on either December 24th or 31st with cards starting again on January 7th.

Thursday, December 18 euchre at the Minden Legion Branch 636: In the lone hands column it was a Fletcher family sweep with Margaret winning for the ladies and Milton for the gents. High scores ladies/men were recorded by Gala Stamp and Pat Roussel with second highs going to Pearl Cowen and Norm Lee. Other prizes were won by John Mallon, Pearl Cowen, Kevin Maloney, Margaret Fletcher and Helen Luffman.

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love & joy.

Cathy Bain, Sales Representative

Wishing you every happiness
this holiday season.
May it be blessed with joy
and success.

David Lee, Sales Representative

Merry Christmas to all.
I hope your holidays
overflow with happiness.

John Lynch, Sales Representative

I would like to extend my best wishes to all. Good health and great happiness in the New Year. I want to thank you for your faith in our expertise and for the pleasure and privilege of serving you over the past year. May the New Year bring a world of peace and happiness for you and those you love.

Respectfully,
Denise LeBlanc

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

For your trust in our company, your faith in our expertise, and for the relationship we enjoy with you, we thank you and sincerely wish you A world of peace and a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

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Warm Christmas Wishes

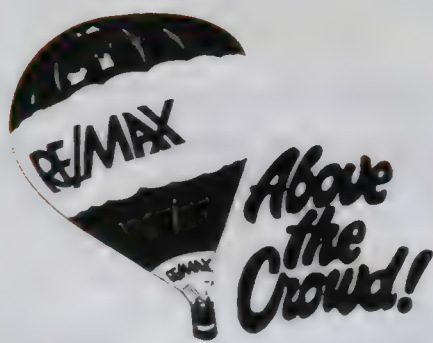


Agents: Tracy Ackerblade, Troy Austen, Rosalind Bagg, Ken Barry, Linda Baumgartner, Linda Beachli, Peter Brady, Geoff Bunn, Fred Chapple, Vince Duchene, Lenor Fulton, Norm Harrison, Bill Kulas, Cathy Lancia, Rick Lowes, Miranda Newman, Marcia Prenger, Andy Pristol, Tom & Gail Tempest, Ted Vasey, Melanie Vigrass. Missing Agents: Julie Gray, Erwin Roithmeier
Support Staff: Tammy Thompson, Brenda McKinlay, Paul Johnson, Karen Nimigon, Diane Dennie, Sue Marshall, Daniel Scott

With the Holiday Season upon us, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have made our year a special one.

Warm friendships and newly found relationships continue to make our business a pleasure. There is no time more fitting to say Thank You and to wish all a very Happy Holiday Season.

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Minden WI members enjoy making festive hats

Submitted

Members of the Women's Institute met recently for a Christmas party. After the opening ode and Institute grace, those present enjoyed a festive meal.

President Pam Rolfe welcomed seven guests. The roll call was answered by 14 members each reading a story or verses and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Hanna

Casper gave her report of the funds balance and profit from craft sales.

Pennies for Friendship were collected. There were three winners of draws and a door prize was won also.

Many members had brought ribbons and other decorative items and the group enjoyed making hats.

Minden WI members would like to take this opportunity to say: Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to everyone in the County of Haliburton.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

what's happening in the Highlands

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- **Al-anon**, a support group for family & friends of alcoholics. Meets every Monday at 8pm at Hyland Crest. For meeting locations, days & times call 705-374-4633.
- **The Haliburton Highlands Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., in the Fireside lounge, Hyland Crest Senior Citizen's Home, Minden. Call Rick Ratcliff 286-6699 -email: leacliff@sympatico.ca.
- **Well Baby Drop-In** - Mondays at the HKPR Health Unit in Haliburton. 1:30-3:30 p.m. We will weigh your baby, discuss infant care, provide breastfeeding support, etc. Call 457-1391 ext.224.
- **The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre** invites you to come & experience our exciting Self-Care workshops. Each workshop runs from 1 to 3 p.m. Advanced Registration Required. For a list of workshops with dates call 705-748-5901.
- **Family Services of Haliburton County** is in urgent need of volunteer respite workers, someone who can be a special "buddy" and share your interests, or plan a fun activity with a child who has special needs in Tory Hill, Halls Lake, Haliburton, Donald, & Cardiff. Call Marilou at Family Services 457-5345 ext 308.
- **Climax Climbing Club** - a drop-in indoor rock climbing program for children, youth & families offered by Family Services. Every Tuesday ending April 13th (excluding school holidays) at Camp Madeeba in West Guilford. Call 457-5345.
- **December 24:** 7 p.m.-Family Service at the Minden United Church. 9 p.m.- Communion Service at Maple Lake United Church.
- **December 24:** Dorset Rec Centre will close at noon today & re-open Jan. 2nd.
- **December 28:** Joint service at Zion United Church -9 a.m.
- **December 28:** 6 p.m.-1st Annual Haliburton Men's Hockey Austar Game. *Bring a donation or non-parishable food item towards 4C's of Haliburton.*
- **December 31:** Dunsford Lions Club -New Years Eve Fundraising Dance. 8 p.m.
- **January 4:** 11 a.m.-Joint Service at Minden United Church.
- **January 7- March 10:** Highlands Parent Child Mother Goose Program. Parents & children (birth to 2-1/2 years) learning rhymes, songs & stories together. Wed. mornings 10 -11 a.m. at the Cardiff Elementary School. Call Family Services 457-5345 or Ontario Early Years Centre 457-2989.
- **January 8:** L.I.F.T. (Ladies In Fellowship Together) 7:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. West Guilford Rec Centre. Speaker: Elizabeth Hutchinson, Carnarvon. Music: Terry Upton, Eagle Lake. Special Feature: Franka Andriano of "Franka's Delectable Catering Service" Call Lyn 457-3155 or Alice 754-2808.
- **January 8:** Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre presents Women's Empowerment by Vicky Clark, (WENDO) *Class Connections*. 1-3pm. Call 705-748-5901.
- **January 15:** 1 p.m. General meeting of the Minden H.H.S. Auxilliary at Hyland Crest. Dwight Thomas will talk about the Paramedic Service. Question & answer period will follow. Everybody welcome.
- **January 19:** Craft day for adults at Burnt River Library at noon. Call 454-9646
- **January 24:** Family Literacy Day at the following Libraries: Dalton (11 a.m.), Kirkfield (9:30am). For info contact the individual library branch.
- **January 26:** Noon Craft Time for adults at Norland Library. Call 454-8552.
- **January 27:** Celebrate Family Literacy Day at the Coboconk Library at 6 p.m.
- **January 28:** Family Literacy Day at Kinmount Library 11am. Call 488-3199.
- **February 12:** Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre presents Self Love by Deb Frist, 1 p.m.- 3 p.m. Call 705-748-5901.
- **March 11:** Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre presents Personal Safety by Sherry Jank, *Peterborough Lakeland Community Police*, 1 pm- 3 pm. Call 705-748-5901.
- **The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre** invites you to come & enjoy **Creative Women's Circle**, a Centre Program that takes place Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call 705-748-5901 for more information.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavor to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Times at 286-4768, emailed to editor@mindentimes.on.ca, or brought in to the office. **NOTE:** This calendar is **NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS** taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in The Times for more information on events and in the Highlands.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements for the Classified Section of THE TIMES and/or THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO can be placed by phone (705) 286-1288; by FAX (705) 286-4768; by mail Box 97, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0; by e-mail to ads@mindentimes.on.ca; or in person at our office at 134 Bobcaygeon Road (Main St., Minden).
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HIGH SCHOOL REUNION - The Memorabilia Committee is looking for pictures and items which can be displayed in the Decade Rooms at the 50th Reunion in May of 2004. If you have things you would be willing to share, please contact Julie Hartin at 457-1980 or Julie.Hartin@tdsb.on.ca

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Season's Greetings To All

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Thursday, Dec. 25

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Friday, Dec. 26

CLOSED

Monday, Dec. 29

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 1

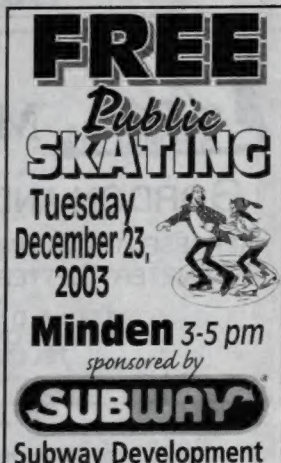
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Friday, Jan. 2

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For more information

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Birthday*
Emma
December 23, 2003

440 THANK YOU

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THANK YOU TO Bonnie Ackerblade for finding and returning my wallet. Thank you to whoever came across it for leaving all the credit cards and identification inside and for leaving the wallet where it could be found. Have a Merry Christmas! **Bob Patton.**

CA

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440 THANK YOU

THE FAMILY OF the late Norma Burk wish to thank all their family and friends for their love and support through the loss of a very precious person. Thank you for all the cards, flowers, food, donations, and caring phone calls. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the doctors and nurses at the Minden and Haliburton Hospitals for the care they gave our special person (Wife, Mom and Nana). A special thank you to Kirsten and Barry for all their help. It is your continued love and support that will help us get through this tough time in our lives. Thank you from **Neil, Andrea and Lee, Andrew and Tracy, Abby and Chad, Aaron, Andi, Jaxon and Maddox.** God bless!

THE FAMILY OF the late Ronald Little would like to take this opportunity to thank the Extendercare staff for their kindness and support during Dad's stay with them. Thank you to the many relatives and friends for their sympathy and kindness shown to us at Dad's passing. The flowers and donations in his memory will long be remembered and the generosity of those who provided food for our family during this time was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Lochlin Church Ladies for providing a luncheon after the service and to Monk Funeral Home for their help and support.

450 IN MEMORIAM

ROWDEN, JR. & SHIRLEY - In loving memory of a dear son and brother, and daughter-in-law, who left us December 26, 1988. I had a son and daughter-in-law with a heart of gold. We miss them more than treasures untold. So wrap your arms around them dear Lord, And treat them with loving care, As Mom and families left behind, Miss them too much to bear. It broke our hearts to lose them, And they didn't go alone, As part of us went with them, The day they were called home. You are sadly missed and loved always, **Mom, sisters and brothers, and families.**

460 OBITUARIES

HARRY PEAK
(Veteran of W.W. II)
Passed away peacefully at home in Lochlin on Wednesday, December 17, 2003. At the age of 78.

Lovingly remembered by Cora Lee Forgie, partners in life for 24 years. Dear father of Teresa and her husband Peter Bernhart, Margaret and her husband Chris Partland, John and his wife Katie Peak, Mike and his wife Teresa Peak, Wendy and her husband Jeff Sellars. Loving grandfather of Jordan, Erica, Emma, Tyler, Mallory, Jonathan, Julia, Austin, Samantha, Cody, Holly and Mitchell. Dear brother of Margaret Alsop, Geoff Peak and Bert Peak. Thanks to the Access Centre, Sirch Hospice and Paramed for all their assistance and support for Harry and family during his illness with cancer. Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 (1-888-588-5777) on Friday from 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service was held in the chapel on Saturday, December 20, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. Spring interment at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S.F.) would be appreciated by the family.

CA

460 OBITUARIES

IVAN ROOME
(Past President of the Forex Association of Canada and Long-time Cottager on Mountain Lake.)
Passed away on December 15, 2003, in his 78th year.

Predeceased by Christina, his wife of 50 years. Loving father of Jean (Tom) Thuro, Madge (Jim) Blencoe, Julie (Mike) Donnelly, David (Susan) Roome, and Alex (Heike) Roome. Dear grandfather of Andrew, Julie, Joe, Jessie, Tim, Tracey, Stephanie, Jillian, Sarah and Stephen. Ivan and his family have been enjoying summers at the cottage on Mountain Lake since the late 1940's. Friends were invited to visit the family at the McDougall and Brown Funeral Home, 2900 Kingston Road, Toronto (1-416-267-4656) on Wednesday, December 17, 2003 from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. Funeral Service in the chapel on Thursday, December 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. If desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

CA

THELMA ADEL DEACON
(nee Pritchard)
Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden, on Tuesday, December 16, 2003. In her 80th year.

Beloved wife of the late Bill Deacon, dear sister of Jean Morrison, Ross Pritchard and predeceased by Eva Sisson, Vivian Kernohan, Helen Hall, Nora Spence, and Russell Deacon. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. A Private Family Service will be held in the spring at Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. Memorial donations to the Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden.

CA

WILLIAM ROY LININGTON
Peacefully, his family and friends by his side, on Tuesday, December 9, 2003; at the Lakeridge Health Centre in Port Perry, at age 55. Bill Linington of View Lake, beloved of Pam. Loved father of Michael Linington and his wife Lorna of Nestleton and Jennifer and her husband Sean Ceney of Blackstock. Proud grandfather of Cole, Travis, Braiden, Brock and Curtis. Dear brother of Donny Linington and Gayle and her husband Wade Harvey. The family of Bill Linington received friends at the WAGG FUNERAL HOME, "McDermott-Panabaker Chapel", 216 Queen Street in Port Perry (905-985-2171), on Thursday, December 11 from 7-9 p.m. A Service to celebrate his life will be held in the Chapel on Friday, December 12 at 11 a.m. If desired, memorial donations may be made by cheque to the Canadian Cancer Society. On-line condolences may be left at www.waggfuneralhome.com.

CA

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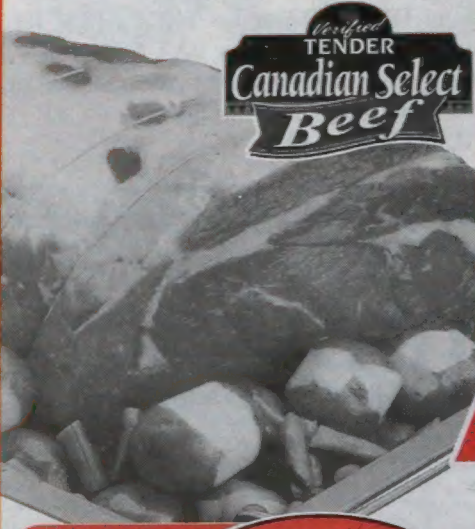
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2⁷⁷ ea.

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Green Giant Géant Vert
SUMMER SWEET PEAS • POIS D'ÉTÉ
sugar snap peas • pois sucres

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750 g - 1 kg

1⁸⁸ ea.

Christie Snacking Crackers

Selected
200 - 454 g

1⁸⁸ ea.

Coke or Pepsi Soft Drinks

Selected, 12 x 355 mL
or 6 x 710 mL

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Philadelphia Cream Cheese

Selected, Brick or Tub
250 g

1⁸⁸ ea.

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100% PURE JUICE

Tropicana, Tropics Chilled Juices
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2⁸⁸ ea.

from the deli

Compliments

Camembert or Brie

170 - 200 g

3⁹⁹ ea.

Kraft Pourable Salad Dressing

Selected
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Compliments 10 Inch

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4⁹⁹ ea.

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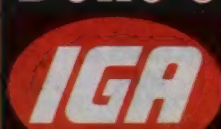
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